



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

INCREASE IN VARIANT H3N2 (H3N2v) CASES

According to a [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) released today, from July 12 to August 9, a total of 153 cases of H3N2v infections were reported in Indiana (120 cases), Ohio (31), Hawaii (one), and Illinois (one). Of the 138 reported cases for which demographic information was available, 128 (93%) occurred in persons aged <18 years, and 10 (7%) occurred in adults. The increase in cases is [partly the result of a change](#) in reporting requirements - State labs that confirm H3N2v cases can now report them directly without waiting for CDC confirmation. A majority of the cases have had mild illness and symptoms similar to what is observed with seasonal flu. Health officials have not determined person to person transmission at this time, but continue to investigate the possibility. Variant Influenza A virus can be directly transmitted from swine to people and from people to swine. Human infections are most likely to occur when people are in close proximity to live infected pigs, such as working with them in barns and visiting livestock exhibits at fairs. As a reminder, suspect human infections with novel influenza viruses should be reported immediately to your local health department.

The MMWR contains additional information on:

- an updated results interpretation for the CDC Flu Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) Dx Panel for A(H3N2)v for public health laboratories and;
- an evaluation of rapid influenza diagnostic tests for the detection of H3N2v viruses.

CDC will be updating this situation and posting weekly case counts [here](#). The following guidance documents are posted:

- [Interim Guidance on Case Definitions to be Used for Investigations of Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus Cases](#)
- [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal and Influenza A\(H3N2\)v in Health Care Settings](#)
- [Interim Guidance on Specimen Collection, Processing and Testing for Patients with Suspected Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus Infection](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Influenza Surveillance: Additional Specimen Collection for Detection of Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Infections](#)

Related News Articles:

- [Illinois confirms novel H3N2 case as national total hits 152](#)
- [Variant H3N2 cases surge in Indiana, Ohio](#)
- [Pigs under scrutiny at Midwest state fairs after flu outbreak](#)

2012-13 INFLUENZA SEASON

This week the pharmacy chains RiteAid and Walgreens started offering influenza vaccines.

- [Rite Aid Pharmacists Ready to Help Customers, Communities Fight the Flu](#)
- [All Walgreens, Duane Reade Pharmacies and Take Care Clinics Now Offering Flu Shots Daily with No Appointment Necessary](#)

Flu Antibodies

Researchers reported in [Science](#) that they have found three antibodies that protect mice against both lineages of influenza B, and one of the three protects mice from both A and B viruses. Related news articles:

- [Team Describes Antibodies that Protect Against Large Variety of Flu Viruses](#)
- [Discovery May Hold Key for Universal Flu Vaccine](#)

Additional Influenza News Articles

- [Surveillance may help doctors decide to prescribe](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

CDC Immunization Update

Please save the date for [CDC's Immunization Update 2012 webcast](#) on **Thursday, August 16**. The webcast will occur from 9:00 to 11:30 am and will be re-cast that day from 12:00 Noon - 2:30 pm (ET). The annual update will cover Influenza, Pertussis Outbreaks and Tdap, ACIP Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Immunocompromised Adults, Vaccine Storage and Handling, Vaccine Information Statements, and Vaccine Briefs.

The [July issue of CDC's Immunization Works! Newsletter](#) has been posted online.

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